

## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Propaganda for Reform in Proprietary Medicines, Vol. 2, 1922.** Containing reports of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, and contributions from the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory, and from the Journal of the American Medical Association. Cloth, 603 pages, with illustrations. Chicago: American Medical Association, 1922.

The present book is the second volume of the "Propaganda for Reform in Proprietary Medicines." The first volume ran through nine editions. The ninth edition contained (1) the most important reports of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, (2) the reports of the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory, and (3) those articles from the Journal of the American Medical Association which deal with the problems of proprietorship in medicine and the furtherance of rational drug therapy. All of this material covered a period prior to 1917.

The present (second) volume contains similar material covering the period from January, 1917, to April, 1922, inclusive. Like Volume I, this volume is divided into four parts:

**Reports of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry**—This section presents the principles and rules which govern the Council in the examination of medicaments, contains articles and reports bearing on the work of the Council, as well as the most important reports of the Council from 1917 to April, 1922, inclusive.

**Reports of the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory**—This, besides presenting the aims and objects of the Association's Chemical Laboratory, also outlines some of the laboratory's work which is of special interest to physicians.

**Contributions from the Journal: Proprietary Products**—This contains articles which have appeared in the Journal A. M. A. on proprietary preparations and their methods of exploitation.

**Contributions from the Journal: Miscellany**—In this section are articles dealing with matters of interest to the medical profession, but not coming strictly under the classification of proprietary medicinal preparations.

A comparison of the material that has appeared in Volume I of the Propaganda for Reform with that which appears in this volume will reveal the changing conditions in the proprietary medicine field. Many of the reports in the first volume brought out the fact that medicinal preparations were at that time foisted on the profession with false claims of composition; reports of this character are less conspicuous in the present volume. Many of the reports in Volume II deal with unwarranted therapeutic claims, especially those advanced for animal organ preparations, serums, vaccines, preparations for intravenous medication, etc. The present volume will also be found of interest in its portrayal of the changed conditions in proprietary medicines brought about by the World War.

The index in this new volume is, in effect, a bibliography, including references not only to articles in the book but also (a) to articles which appeared in Volume I; (b) to articles on the same general subject in the Journal of the American Medical Association, and (c) to articles appearing in the annual reports of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry and of the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory, but not printed in either volume of the Propaganda for Reform in Proprietary Medicines.

This book is not only valuable for the information it contains, but it is also interesting. It shows up the technique of the artist in the sale of proprietary medicines, tells of his skilful word-pictures that are

sent to the physician as "literature." It makes clear the work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory and the Journal of the American Medical Association in their several capacities as servants to the medical profession and as champions of rational medicine. The book should be in every physician's library, and more than that, should be within reach for convenient reference.

**Nutrition and Growth in Children.** By Wm. R. P. Emerson. 342 pages, illustrated. New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1922.

Topsy "just grew" and she may have been a satisfactory physical specimen, but the whole story of Topsy's ten brothers and sisters would show that half of them had not survived the risk, and the remainder possessed handicaps that careful examination would uncover and ascribe to neglect of common laws which more or less operate against the physical well-being of childhood and end in powerful influences in the way of chronic disability.

Emerson has made a most careful study of the influences attending childhood, home control, food habits, health habits, fatigue and physical defects, and has sought in his important contribution to evaluate these influences and show how they can be directed for good or prevented from becoming permanent handicaps.

The author has studied various group methods of handling children and bringing to bear on them the right sort of ideas. He has shown the responsibility of the parents, the public school teachers, school nurses and doctors, and seeks to co-ordinate and direct all the forces surrounding the child. His book is a carefully worked out plan and is recommended to mothers, teachers and public health nurses, especially as offering a most understanding method by which such work should be begun. Little enough is known of the reaction of the supposedly normal child to the incidents of early years, and Emerson's group method deserves a thorough trial.

P. K. B.

**Basal Metabolism—Its Determination and Application.** Frank B. Sanborn, M. S., Editor. 282 pages. Boston: Sanborn Company. 1922.

The purpose of this book is stated in the author's preface: "This book is intended to supply the physician and the technician with a treatise that will be a guide in making tests of metabolism and in interpreting the results of the tests." The book is a compilation of articles describing the different methods and apparatus.

Although the author is himself the maker of two of the closed circuit machines, he does not make any odious comparisons or draw any conclusions as to the best type of machine.

J. M. R.

**The Healthy Child from Two to Seven.** A handbook for parents, nurses, and workers for child welfare. By Francis Hamilton MacCarthy, M. D. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1922. \$1.50.

The home environment and the responsibility of the parents in providing for food, shelter, health, and a guidance in character development are well described in this book.

Too often the baby, as it grows past formula feeding, loses the suggestions of the physician. It sees its doctor only when sick, and the combination of food, play, mental and moral training is too seldom a matter for consultation.

Children grow, too frequently unguided through the years from two to six, and plant seeds of future suffering and breakdowns in disorderly habits, uncontrolled temper and life in an over-stimulating atmosphere.

The controlled and guided children are prepared in the home to meet life—all this the author brings